



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10**

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, Washington 98101-3140

June 30, 2008

Reply To
Attn Of: ETPA-088

Ref: 05-044-AFS

Tom Rielly
Forest Supervisor
Clearwater National Forest
12730 U.S. Highway 12
Orofino, ID 83544

Dear Mr. Rielly:

The EPA has reviewed the final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) (Chapter 6 and Errata) and Record of Decision (ROD) for the **Yakus Creek Project** (CEQ No. 20080037), on the Lochsa Ranger District of the Clearwater National Forest in Idaho County, Idaho. We are submitting comments in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The selected alternative in the ROD is Alternative 2. This alternative proposes timber harvest, watershed improvement, and access management activities within the National Forest portion of the 7,900-acre analysis area, located in the Yakus Creek drainage approximately 12 air-miles east of Kamiah, Idaho. Alternative 2 was identified in the DEIS as the preferred alternative, and remains unchanged in the Final EIS and ROD.

In our comments on the draft EIS in March 2008, questions were raised about the level of obliteration to be applied to roads proposed for closure, the need for the proposed OHV connector trails, and potential impacts to sourcewater. Chapter 6 of the FEIS addresses these questions and concerns with an adequate level of detail. We support the proposed reductions in road density, and are pleased to note that all of the roads proposed for decommissioning will be recontoured and revegetated. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the FEIS. Please feel free to contact Teresa Kubo at (503) 326-2859 with any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/

Christine B. Reichgott, Manager
NEPA Review Unit